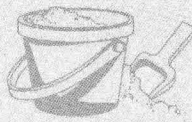




**GEORGE S. MORRISON**

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TODAY

**SIXTH  
EDITION**



**SIXTH EDITION**

# **Early Childhood Education Today**

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**GEORGE S. MORRISON**

**Florida International University**



**MERRILL**

an imprint of PRENTICE HALL

*Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey*

*Columbus, Ohio*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Morrison, George S.

Early childhood education today / George S.  
Morrison.—6th ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-02-384151-6

1. Early childhood education—United  
States. I. Title.

LB1139.2.M67 1995

372'.21—dc20

94-8332

CIP

Cover art/photo: © Myrleen Ferguson Cate, Photo  
Network

Editor: Ann Castel Davis

Developmental Editor: Erin Haggerty

Production Editor: Linda Hillis Bayma

Photo Editor: Anne Vega

Text Designer: Thomas Mack

Cover Designer: Thomas Mack

Production Buyer: Patricia A. Tonneman

Electronic Text Management: Marilyn Wilson

Phelps, Matthew Williams, Jane Lopez,

Karen L. Bretz

Illustrations: Jane Lopez

This book was set in Korrina BT by Prentice Hall  
and was printed and bound by R.R. Donnelley &  
Sons Company. The cover was printed by Phoenix  
Color Corp.



© 1995 by Prentice-Hall, Inc.

A Simon & Schuster Company

Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632

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Company and © 1988, 1984, 1980, and 1976 by  
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Photo credits: AP Wide World Photos, p. 32; The  
Bettman Archive, p. 52; Andy Brunk/Prentice Hall  
and Merrill, pp. 210, 290; Ben Chandler/Prentice  
Hall and Merrill, p. 65; Children's Hospital, Colum-  
bus, Ohio, p. 616; Scott Cunningham/Cunning-  
ham/Feinknopf/Prentice Hall and Merrill, pp. 97,  
213, 231, 380, 383, 403, 431, 437, 466, 481, 510,  
518; Diane Elmer, p. 76; Rohn Engh/Sunrise Trinity  
Photos, p. 26; Kevin Fitzsimmons/Prentice Hall and  
Merrill, p. 617; Girl Scouts of America, p. 408;  
Courtesy of IBM, p. 572; Korver/Thorpe Ltd., p. 66;  
Lloyd Lemmerman/Prentice Hall and Merrill, pp.  
474, 475, 493; George Morrison, pp. 181, 191,  
579, 581; Courtesy of NationsBank, p. 173; Bar-  
bara Schwartz/Prentice Hall and Merrill, pp. 133,  
214, 246, 308, 395, 400, 473, 596, 599, 629;  
Michael Siluk, p. 263; Ann Vega/Prentice Hall and  
Merrill, pp. 2, 10, 12, 39, 44, 55, 60, 68, 70, 71,  
73, 75, 81, 90, 92, 94, 100, 106, 120, 130, 140,  
154, 161, 208, 218, 227, 253, 258, 262, 265, 277,  
286, 291, 326, 327, 331, 342, 344, 359, 363, 371,  
373, 394, 446, 477, 498, 508, 523, 524, 534, 538,  
545, 568, 606; Tom Watson/Prentice Hall and Mer-  
rill, pp. 418, 423, 430, 529, 591; Todd Yarrington,  
p. 564; Todd Yarrington/Prentice Hall and Merrill,  
pp. 7, 123, 270, 299, 302, 554, 604; Allen Zak, p.  
159.

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN: 0-02-384151-6

Prentice-Hall International (UK) Limited, London  
Prentice-Hall of Australia Pty. Limited, Sydney  
Prentice-Hall of Canada, Inc., Toronto  
Prentice-Hall Hispanoamericana, S. A., Mexico  
Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited, New Delhi  
Prentice-Hall of Japan, Inc., Tokyo  
Simon & Schuster Asia Pte. Ltd., Singapore  
Editora Prentice-Hall do Brasil, Ltda., Rio de  
Janeiro

*This book is affectionately dedicated to Betty Jane*



# Preface

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The world of early childhood is constantly changing, and the changes ahead promise to be rewarding and challenging. We professionals must be prepared to assist young children and their families in making the transition into the twenty-first century. The transition from one millennium to another in a few years will provide many opportunities and rewards. I believe this sixth edition of *Early Childhood Education Today* will help prepare professionals to rightfully, knowledgeably, confidently, and appropriately assume their roles of educating children, parents, and families for productive living.

## GOALS AND COVERAGE

*Early Childhood Education Today* offers a thorough introduction to the field of early childhood education. It provides an up-to-date, cutting-edge, comprehensive overview of programs and practices, historic foundations, and the latest ideas and practices in the field. The content enables professionals at all levels to learn new knowledge and information, analyze issues, and apply practical, developmentally appropriate ideas and suggestions. Implications for practice abound throughout the text.

## CONTEMPORARY THEMES

Essential contemporary themes and their implications for professional practice are included in the sixth edition of *Early Childhood Education Today*. These themes include multiculturalism and multiculturally appropriate practice; technology and its application to early childhood programs; equity and diversity issues, including gender and socioeconomic background; developmentally appropriate practice, curriculum, and assessment; the changing field of early childhood education; and the changing role of the early childhood professional.



## NEW TO THE SIXTH EDITION

Users of the fifth edition will find major changes in the sixth edition. One chapter has been deleted, and two new chapters have been added. The sixth edition of *Early Childhood Education Today* is extensively revised to reflect changes in society and the field of early childhood education. Some of the book's key changes are these:

- A new chapter, "Multiculturalism: Education for Living in a Diverse Society," encourages professionals to consider how society is changing and how they can provide for the needs of all children according to their race and culture, gender, socioeconomic status, and family background through culturally sensitive practice, programming, and settings.
- A new chapter, "Technology and Early Childhood Education: Education for the Twenty-first Century," challenges professionals to promote technological literacy for themselves, children, and families. Society is becoming more technological, and professionals must keep up with the benefits and opportunities of technology.
- A new insert titled "A Look Inside," describes nine outstanding programs. These profiles, which are illustrated with color photographs, provide a visually appealing format to the sixth edition. They also reinforce the significant role business and industry play in early education and address the themes of multiculturalism, technology, and quality programming.
- Important vignettes, program descriptions, and personal philosophies by noted early childhood authorities (including Sue Bredekamp of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; James Comer of the Yale Child Development Center; Ellen Galinsky of the Families and Work Institute; and Sarah Greene, executive director of Head Start) provide a rich background of experiences and insight for professionals at all levels of their development.
- Every chapter has been thoroughly revised, new vignettes added, and the latest in theory, programming, and practice incorporated. Professionals at all levels can stay up-to-date with the sixth edition of *Early Childhood Education Today*.

Like all previous editions, this sixth edition was written with a deep sense of pride for all who teach, care for, and parent young children. I heartily agree with Froebel, Montessori, and Dewey that the care and education of young children is a redemptive calling. This vision of teaching is supported in chapter 16 by the vignettes submitted by the 1993 Teachers of the Year.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the course of my teaching, service, and consulting, I meet and talk with many professionals who are deeply committed to doing their best for young children and their families. I am always touched, heartened, and encouraged by the openness,

honesty, and unselfish sharing of ideas that characterize these professional colleagues. I take this opportunity to thank them publicly for helping me and all who reviewed the sixth edition of *Early Childhood Education Today*. Those who shared their time, talents, and ideas are Michelle R. Adkins, NationsBank Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina; Tonia Alameda, Fienberg/Fisher Elementary School, Miami Beach, Florida; Kay Albrecht, director, HeartsHome Early Learning Center, Houston, Texas; Susie Armstrong, Montessori School at Greenwood Plaza, Englewood, Colorado; Margaret Baily, Audubon Head Start, Owensboro, Kentucky; Norma Beiler, Dade County Head Start, Miami, Florida; Barbara Bittner, Alexander D. Henderson University School, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida; Beverly Boals, professor, early childhood education, Arkansas State University; Laurie Brackett, The Stride Rite Corporation, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Patricia J. Callahan, Brigance Inventories and Screens, North Billerica, Massachusetts; Bernadette Caruso, University of Delaware; Nira Changwatchai, The Open Door, Austin, Texas; Ivonne Hatfield Clay, Longfellow School, Kansas City, Missouri; James Comer, Yale Child Study Center, New Haven, Connecticut; Shawn Cooper, Pacific Gas and Electric, San Francisco, California; Mary Ann Coulson, chair, Federation of FDCA, Education Project, Redwood City, California; Roger Croteau, Children's Home Society, Miami, Florida; Diane Cutshall, Indian Meadows Elementary, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Maria de la Torre, teacher, Charles R. Hadley Elementary School, Miami, Florida; Kathie Dobberteen, principal, Glen Murdock Elementary School, Bonita, California; Sarah A. Du Bosq, teacher, South Pointe Elementary School, Miami Beach, Florida; Fred Estrada, VISTA Magazine, Coral Gables, Florida; Betsy Evans, The Giving Tree School, Gill, Massachusetts; John Farie, director of human development, Metro-Dade County, Miami, Florida; Linda Harvey Filomeno, William D'Abate Elementary, Providence, Rhode Island; Karen Fleck, Head Start Transition Project, San Jose, California; Madeline Fried, The Thurgood Marshall Child Development Center, Herndon, Virginia; Cindy Gajdos, nursery teacher, Texas Woman's University; Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute, New York, New York; Lela Gandini, liaison to the United States for the Department of Early Education, Reggio Emilia; Violet Geib, first grade teacher, Stiegel Elementary School, Manheim, Pennsylvania; Gail Gonzalez, health care director, San Jose, California; Janet Gonzalez-Mena, Napa Valley College, Suisun, California; Sarah M. Greene, National Head Start Association, Alexandria, Virginia; Sara P. Grillo, Charles R. Hadley Elementary School, Miami, Florida; Cynthia Haralson, teacher, Miami, Florida; Chris Holicek, kindergarten teacher, Burleigh Elementary School, Brookfield, Wisconsin; Kathleen Holz, City and Country School, New York, New York; Kari Hull, Lemon Avenue Elementary School, LaMesa, California; Cami Jones, director, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas; Ed Labinowicz, professor, Gresham, Oregon; Antonia Lopez, The Foundation Center for Phenomenological Research, Sacramento, California; Barbara Lord, teacher, Lexington Park Elementary School, Lexington Park, Maryland; Miriam Mades, kindergarten teacher, South Pointe Elementary School, Miami Beach, Florida; Dodie Magill, kindergarten teacher, Pelham Road Elementary School, Greenville, South Carolina; Beverly McGhee, headmistress, Alexander Montessori School, Miami, Florida; Shawn Michaud, The Open Door Infant Center,

Austin, Texas; Lynn Michelotti, teacher, Todd Hall School, Lincolnwood, Illinois; Richard A. Morris, Fel Pro Corporation, Skokie, Illinois; Lesley M. Morrow, professor, Rutgers University; Julie Morse, teacher, Lemon Avenue Elementary, La Mesa, California; Roger Myers, director, The Twenty-First Century School Program, Independence, Missouri; Judith A. Orion, consultant, The Montessori Institute, Denver, Colorado; Michele O'Shannessy, primary teacher, HeartsHome Early Learning Center, Houston, Texas; Carrie Peery, Hamilton Academic Achievement Academy, San Diego, California; Barry Pehrsson, chief executive officer, Southwinds, Inc., Middletown, New York; Maxine Roberts, professor of education, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Gary Robertson, American Guidance Service, Circle Pines, Minnesota; Nancy B. Royal, kindergarten teacher, Elm Street Elementary, Newman, Georgia; Elizabeth Sears, The Open Door Preschool, Austin, Texas; Daniel D. Shade, director, Technology in Early Childhood Habitats, Department of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware; Margery Sher, The Thurgood Marshall Child Development Center, Herndon, Virginia; Linda Sholar, kindergarten teacher, Sangre Ridge Elementary School, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Peggy Sparks, Jostens Learning, San Diego, California; S. W. Stile, New Mexico State University; Bonnie Storm, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, Alexandria, Virginia; William Tamlyn, The St. Paul Companies, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota; Michele Taylor, CDR, Lightfoot, Virginia; Kathryn Thomas, Educational Alternatives Inc., Bloomington, Minnesota; Mildred Vance, professor of education, Arkansas State University; Judith Vandergrift, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Tempe, Arizona; David P. Weikart, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, Ypsilanti, Michigan; Denise West, Public Health and Nutrition Program Director, Dade County Department of Public Health, Miami, Florida; Mary Ann Wilson, Sullivan County Community College, Loch Sheldrake, New York; M. Shirley Wormsbecker, program manager, Alberta Children's Hospital, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; and Marlene Zepeda, California State University, Los Angeles.

In addition, Millie Riley, Theresa Furry, and Sue Bredekamp, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Carol Brunson Phillips, Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition, have been very supportive of my requests for information and help and have been very generous in giving me permission to reprint from NAEYC publications.

I would also like to thank the reviewers of the previous five editions as well as the following people who offered helpful comments on this edition: Jerold Bauch, Vanderbilt University; Karen Colleran, Pierce College; Georgiana Cornelius, New Mexico State University; Anne Federlein, University of Northern Iowa; Florence Leonard, Towson State University; Sima Lesser, Miami-Dade Community College; Mary Link, Miami University; Patricia Lowry, Jacksonville State University; Jacqueline Paulson, The College of Staten Island/CUNY; Judith Reitsch, Eastern Washington University; Kevin Swick, University of South Carolina; and C. Stephen White, University of Georgia.

My editors at Merrill are the greatest I have ever had the pleasure of working with. The efforts of Linda Bayma, Erin Haggerty, and freelance copy editor Laura Larson have been most appreciated. Their professional manner and expertise have contributed greatly toward making this text one of exceptional quality.





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